(a) whether the Indian Overseas Bank has introduced a loan scheme for people going to gulf countries;

(b) if so, the terms and condition laid down under the scheme;

(c) whether this scheme has been introduced in every branch of Indian Overseas Bank; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to introduce the scheme in all the branches of Indian Overseas Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). According to Indian Overseas Bank, they have a scheme for sanctioning loans to persons proceeding to places in Gulf region, for meeting the passage fare. Under the scheme, Indian Nationals holding valid passports, visa/no-objection certificate and firm offer of employment are eligible for a maximum loan of Rs.10,000/- at a minimum interest rate of 18.0% per annum, repayable in 20 monthly instalments alongwith interest. Such loans are given on a guarantee of two persons. At present, Indian Overseas Bank is implementing the scheme in its branches in Kerala only.

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Tea Plantation in Orissa

6035. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the different regions/districts in Orissa where tea plantation has been started;

(b) whether the climatic conditions in some other forest and tribal districts in the State are also favorable for tea plantation;

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase areas under the plantation in Orissa;

(d) whether possibility has been explored to cultivate tea in Mohendra Giri and other hilly areas in Ganjam district of Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Tea plantation has been started in Bhuyanpirh tea garden situated in Keonjhar District in Orissa.

(b) and (c). Preliminary reports indicate that approximately 2800 hectares in Thuamul Rampur Tehisil of Kalahandi Distt. and Darangabadi in Phulbani Distt. are suitable for tea cultivation. Tea Board has sanctioned an amount of Rs.25 lakhs towards setting up tea nurseries as a first step for raising tea plants in the area.

(d) Possibility has not been explored in the said area so far.

(e) Does not arise.

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Performance of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions

6036. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of public sector banks and financial institutions during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government had a proposal to review and monitor the Centrally sponsored schemes in which these banks are involved; and